

January 2016

Elisabeth M. Bennet Academy Parent Newsletter

Joseph J. Chella
Principal

Hassan Robinson
Assistant Principal

The Bennet Star



January 2016

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

The year is definitely moving right along here at Bennet! It's hard to believe that we're half way through the school year already! Students are working very hard as we know you're all aware of. It's nice to see students demonstrating such progress in the classroom as well as socially.

As winter is now in full swing, we wanted to remind everyone to visit the district website and/or check in with local television or radio stations in the event of inclement weather. Closings or delays are posted very early in the morning to help you plan your day.

As you know, our state/federal assessment is Smarter Balance Assessment. This assessment is aligned with the Common Core State Standards curriculum. The test will be administered during the window of April 25-May 13. Students and staff are working diligently in preparation for the Smarter Balance assessment. We encourage parents/guardians to avoid planning days off/appointments for students, if at all possible, during this time. More information will follow as we narrow in on the test dates.

As a school, we continue to provide opportunities for students to play an active role in maintaining and adding to our positive school climate. We had a wonderful school-wide assembly geared toward perseverance and overcoming obstacles that we all face. We consistently work to maintain and build upon a climate that is welcoming and encouraging. Please continue to talk with your child about how he or she can be a positive part of our school community, and continue to contribute to our positive school climate.

We want to thank students and families for their support with our many drives to help support the Manchester community. We have been able to donate many needed supplies and food to agencies in the community that will reach a lot of people!

Lastly, we want to thank all of you for your continued support in our very important partnership in the education of your child. Neither one of us can do this alone; the school to home bond is paramount for this process to be successful. Our students are very lucky here at Bennet to have such strong home support!

Sincerely,

Joe Chella

Joe Chella, Principal

PRINCIPAL HOURS

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

February 9, 2016

March 8, 2016

April 5, 2016

May 10, 2016



ABSENT LINE

Please call the 24 hour absent telephone line every time your child is absent from school:

860-647-3583

Please leave your child's name, home base teacher, team, and the reason for the absence.
Thank you!



Sixth Grade Physical and Immunizations

All sixth grade students are required to have a physical and proper immunizations by June 1, 2016 on file in the Bennet Academy Health Office. The blue state physical forms must be dated after January 2015 to June of 2016. The State of Connecticut also requires that each student have a Tdap booster after age 11; two varicellas; and a meningococcal vaccine. Failure to provide documentation of the proper health requirements may result in your student not being allowed to enter grade 7 at Iling Middle School. If you have any questions, please call and speak with a school nurse at 860-647-3582. Thank you.

Bennet's Virtual Backpack is Up and Running

Please remember that ALL communications that are normally sent home in Tuesday's Communication Folder, can now be accessed through the "**virtual backpack**" on the homepage of our website. Notices will be posted by 3:00PM every Tuesday. If you wish to **STOP** receiving paper notices, fill out the form that was sent home the week of November 10th (or find the form in the virtual backpack for that week). All notices requiring a signature, will continue to be sent home with students.

Look for THIS symbol!!!



Physical Education News

We are in full swing with our fitness unit! All of Mr. Constantine's classes are learning about the benefits of fitness on personal success in and outside of the classroom, as well as its importance to overall wellness!

Students have been actively tracking their own progress as they workout in the fitness room using cardio, weight machines, and independent exercises. All students are working hard as they have been practicing effective training techniques, learned to monitor their heart rates, and calculate calories burned. They have also been working cooperatively through partner training, by encouraging and helping their classmates reach their fitness goal and show improvement. Keep up the EXCELLENT work!

Mrs. Coles' classes are currently in the middle of a badminton unit, practicing serving, score-keeping, and different types of return hits. The students are doing a great job working together cooperatively and are ready for doubles play!

<http://www.amazing-animations.com/sports/animations/badminton5.gif>



Fit for Life

Living Well is Feeling Great

Bennet Academy Art Class

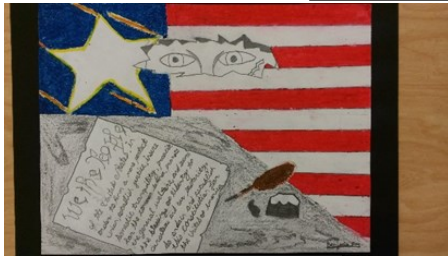
Mrs. Guzzi's classes are practicing mixing colors in preparation for an animal painting using Acrylic. Before painting they worked with Oil Pastels to create the illusion of 3D form. After that they used 2 point perspective to create a Robot in Color Pencil with cubes above, below and on the horizon line.

After studying Art in the World, Mrs. Reimels classes are using Oil Pastels to create a 3 dimensional illusion for a project, "Things in the Ocean". They will use water color for the background.

Mrs. Sweeney's class is creating artwork for the PTA exposition on "Let Your Imagination Fly". They are studying Contrast, Shading, Value using pastels and color pencils.

All classes are continuing to incorporate Art Principals & Elements thoughtfully into their work.

Let Your Imagination Fly



Ben's art work



Olivia P.



Deishaly uses Oil Pastels



Natalia R's 2 point perspective robot



Julia uses Oil Pastels



Students in after-school activities will board late buses at 4:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

SAFETY

REMINDER

TO PARENTS

Please be sure to have your child exit and enter your car on the sidewalk side of the street. You may also drop off your child in the staff parking lot on School Street.



gg61569709 www.gograph.com

MUSIC DEPARTMENT STAFF

Ms. Molly Sayles,
Band Director

Mrs. Browning,
Orchestra
Director

Mrs. Sandefer, Choral
Director and
Classroom Music



Music Notes

Musical Notes

Congratulations to all of our Bennet Academy musicians in Band, Orchestra and Chorus for an Outstanding Winter Concert! Students can be proud of their performance as well as an outstanding display of Concert Etiquette. We teach students the three P's of performance - Plan, and Practice, in order to Perform. We also teach that when we are audience members, we follow the L.A.W. of good audience members - Listen to the performance, Appreciate (even if you don't like something about the music, you can appreciate the planning and practicing that the performer has done) by clapping once the performance is finished, and Waiting until the performance is over to do anything that might distract - talking, leaving the room, or even returning to your seat.

Concerts are an opportunity for students to share with parents, family and friends all of their hard work. **We hope you will join our students as they present their Townwide Concerts the first week of April.** These concerts are an excellent opportunity for students and parents to see the transformation that takes place from the beginning elementary student to the accomplished High School Musician. We are also looking forward to our Bennet Academy Spring Concert the first week in May.

Staying on Track:

Many students in Band and Orchestra are now developing good practice routines and remembering to hand in their practice logs. Practice logs are 10% of the grade for Band and Orchestra.



Bennet Counseling Corner

PILLAR OF THE MONTH: JANUARY – JUSTICE

- The quality of being just;
- Right, equitable, or moral;
- The administering of deserved punishment or reward
- Fairness

There are 6 Elements of Social Justice

- Social Action
- Awareness
- Social movements and change
- Acceptance/Issues of social *injustice*
- Respect for others
- Self love and knowledge



Marielis Rodriguez Honored at 31st Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration



Dozens of students from throughout Manchester were recognized for various acts of thoughtfulness and generosity Tuesday night at the town's 31st annual Martin Luther King celebration. The theme of this year's awards – selected by the Manchester Youth Commission – was "What are you doing for others?"

Future Problem Solvers



Future Problem Solving

Recovery from Natural Disasters

Manchester Public Schools recently hosted a Future Problem Solving (FPS) seminar at Manchester High School. Future Problem Solving students from across the state of Connecticut traveled to Manchester High School's auditorium on January 6 to listen to several guest speakers discuss issues related to their current problem solving topic: Recovery from Natural Disasters. Students across the globe who compete in the FPS program are researching this topic in preparation for their next competition.

The guest speakers were Deputy Commissioner William Shea from the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Richard V. Branigan, Chief Program Officer of the American Red Cross, Connecticut and Rhode Island Region. Both speakers discussed various aspects of the recovery process in Connecticut in response to natural disasters. Natural disasters include: earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and other natural events which have recently been prominent in the news. Most people do not recognize that recovery work such as rebuilding homes, infrastructure, and businesses goes on even when the news moves on to the next big story. The human factor such as recovery from emotional, mental, and physical stress is a painful and difficult journey for survivors of natural disasters.

In FPS class, students are learning about disaster recovery plans (DRP) and how government agencies, insurance companies, charitable organizations, celebrities, and individual volunteers all respond to natural disaster relief. They will tackle difficult questions such as: How can relief efforts be best utilized, coordinated, and sustained to assist survivors? How can the people, communities, and countries that are affected by a disaster begin to recover from their losses and cope with their changed lives? How will the impact on psychological and physical health be managed? (some topic description from www.fpspi.org). For more information about the FPS program across Connecticut visit: www.fpsfct.org or contact FPS coach Samantha Randazzo at Bennet Academy (860)647-3571 ext, 70576 or samranda@mpspride.org.



Bennet Academy S.T.A.R.S. Award Winners



Congratulations to the following students who received a S.T.A.R.S. Award at Bennet Academy recently: Nathan Schick, Emily Madden, Xayvion Jackson, Steven Serrano, Nicole Donovan, Lexie Rose, Robert Clarke, Chaya Andrews, Jamie Dykstra, Gabe Johnson, Camren Daley, Jose Matute, Frida Vazquez-Marentes, Aja Tomes, Meagan Miazga, Emonie Laurent, Daniel Valerio, Christina Cumbo, Emma Greenfield, Chris Dubois, SeanJay Davila, Jamie Powell, Tyshaun Daley.

Their pictures are highlighted on our Bennet Academy television monitor located outside the main office. We are proud of our students for the positive choices they are making at Bennet Academy.

Team Kennedy

Math - Mr. Reisine

It continues to be an exciting time in math class on Team Kennedy. Before the break, we finished up with adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing with decimals, and the students quickly became experts on the four operations. We are going onto our new unit, where we will be finding greatest common factor, and least common multiple. We will finally be able to answer how many packs of hot dogs, and how many packs of hot dog buns we will need to buy! Accelerated math class is solving one and two step equations, and will be solving and graphing one and two step inequalities.

Team Kennedy continued

Social Studies – Ms. Moretto

We are reviewing Latin America, Middle America and Central America in social studies classes. Many new vocabulary words along with map studies and cultural histories have become a point of interest. Mrs. Rafala, Media Specialist, and Mrs. Johnson, Kennedy teacher, have been working on setting up an official Jeopardy game for our studies. Every daily oral geography question is also enhanced with the Jeopardy theme song. Who said Social Studies isn't fun?

Language Arts – Mrs. Melesko

In Reader's Workshop, students continued to learn that understanding story structure helps them to become more effective readers. They've explored how authors do not give each part of the story the same amount of attention. They write more about important parts of the story. This technique forces the reader to dwell on this part of the story. We've reviewed our lessons on scenes and narration and discussed how they added to the rising tension of the story. Students met in their book clubs to discuss their books and work on identifying exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution/twist.

Students know that readers watch characters carefully. They revise and refine their thinking about characters. We've continued to talk about what kinds of people the characters are and what they want throughout the whole story, because they reveal themselves slowly. The writer, Stephen King wrote, "Good books don't give up their secrets all at once." I love this quote because it tells us that there is great reward in paying attention to the details in stories, that if you do, you will uncover the big ideas that make the story important. They've explored how to keep an open mind while reading. They have continued to meet in book clubs and based on what they've learned about the characters, discussed how their thinking has changed.

In Writer's Workshop, students have learned that literary essayists mull over their ideas about the character and then choose one they can craft into a claim that feels worth thinking and writing about. Students worked together in groups to come up with a claim that captured the whole of that character, so the claim (or thesis statement) is big enough to think and write about for their literary essay. Your child then improved his/her claim by adding reasons or ways to support the claim.

Students then learned that literary essayists develop and test text-based claims by rereading the text through the lens of the claim, and searching for compelling evidence to support it. Our literary essayist focused on conveying evidence through three major ways - storytelling, summarizing, and quoting text. Students practiced the strategy of skimming a text to find the most compelling evidence to support their claim. Students then continued working on their boxes-and-bullets plan, rereading their story through the lens of their claim, collecting evidence and organizing their essays. Students also studied published literary essays to learn techniques and structures to bring to the work of drafting their own essays. Students have worked on typing their essays in google docs.

Common Core State Standards covered were: W.6.1a,b,c,d,e; W.6.4; W.6.5, W.9.a, W.10, RL. 6.1, RL. 6.2, RL.6.3, RL. 6.5, RL. 6.10, SL. 6.1, SL. 6.2, SL. 6.6, L. 6.1, L6.2, L6.3.

Science – Mrs. Matlock

Science is exciting! At the beginning of December, Team Kennedy's salmon eggs were delivered. They will be observed and will "live" with us until they are released as part of a restocking effort in May. Chaperones will be needed for this "Salmon Release Day" field trip. Transportation will be provided only for students. More details to come in March!

Students are just wrapping up their Introduction to Matter unit. Their final projects consisted of completing a research packet and creating a Google slide presentation about the periodic table and an element of their choosing. They have been working hard and their projects are impressive!

Looking ahead, we will be starting our Weather and Climate unit! This is an exciting unit where students will create a Hurricane History Project, a Tornado History project and in collaborative groups will design a storm chasing vehicle! Throughout this unit, we will investigate the atmosphere, weather patterns and different weather phenomena!

Team Hughes



The Hughes News

Mr. Mordhorst Ms. Swanbon Ms. Stevenson Ms. Paluso
Ms. McLaughlin Mrs. Timreck Ms. Nofi

JANUARY 2016

HAPPY NEW YEAR HUGHES FAMILIES!

Congratulations to our STAR Students of the Month

Ethan Gardner ~ November

Cam-Nhung Thi Quach ~ December

Congratulations on being nominated for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award

Dashawn Douglas

Coats for Connecticut - Update

Team Hughes has collected over 255 coats to date for the Coats for Connecticut Drive! This project helps to provide coats for men, women, children and our veterans, who can not afford to purchase on their own. Due to the economy, and loss of jobs, many families find themselves in circumstances that is beyond their control. This is our way of helping and showing these people, there are people who care about their welfare. Our original goal was 150 coats and because of the community's generosity, we have surpassed that goal by more than 100 coats! We will still be collecting until the end of January, so if you happen to be cleaning out your closets and find coats that no longer fit, or you no longer want, please send it into school with your child, or drop off in the large yellow box in front of the office. Many thanks to all of you who have already donated to this very worthy cause. We appreciate it greatly!

Home Access Center

The Home Access Center is a useful tool to help keep you informed about your child's progress throughout the school year. It is available to you 24-7. You can login to check on work completion and grades as often as you like. If you need your username and password sent to you again, please contact the Main Office.

Visit: <http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov/page.cfm?p=939>

Team Hughes Continued

Math- Ms. Paluso

Before Winter Break, we closed out Unit 3, building fluency with long division and all operations involving decimals. As the year progresses, we will not forget these skills as they are embedded in other tasks to come.

Our daily lessons have included time for note taking of 'How To' steps, important vocabulary, and examples. We learn through a variety of activities that include guided practice with the teacher, online practice buddies, group activities and games, and homework practice. The students have made a commitment to succeed in math this year. This can be seen by the many Team Hughes students that come to class prepared every day, complete all work assigned, and most importantly, ask questions when they are stuck.

A google document is shared weekly with the students. In this document, they will find a missing assignments bulletin that is updated every week. Students are given one week to make up/ turn in missing work.

Our latest adventure began January 4th, with a small unit on Prime Factorization, Greatest Common Factor, and Least Common Multiple. It has been encouraged to keep building fluency with multiplications facts, as they are a critical part of this unit as well. If you have ever tried to figure out how many hot dogs to buy so they equal the mismatched number of buns that come in a pack, then this unit will be helpful! Perhaps your child can help you plan your next event with their useful knowledge of Least Common Multiple.

Thank you for your continued support! vpaluso@mpspride.org

Social Studies - Ms. Stevenson

In Social Studies, we have been discussing Central America. We have talked about the history, the cultures, and the land. We continue to have our weekly geography packets for homework that are given out on Monday and are due on Friday. We also complete a daily geography question in their notebooks when they come to class. Have a great holiday break. See you in 2016. b21cstev@mpspride.org

Science - Mr. Mordhorst

Science class has continued our study of matter. Recently, we have focused on the three main states of matter with an emphasis on particle behavior. We also learned about the changes in this behavior when a substance changes temperature and eventually changes melts, freezes, or boils. We watched some videos of some rather dangerous experiments about how gases behave under extreme conditions. The grand finale though was the lab right before break where we made our own ice cream. The day before we conducted a whole class lab tracking the temperature of ice with salt compared to a sample of plain ice. We concluded that salt both makes ice melt faster and makes it colder. We learned what an endothermic reaction is and why salt increases this, helping us make ice cream faster.

When we return from break we will continue our study of matter for a little while. We will learn about the atom and different elements. Students will learn to identify the main parts of an atom and a few of the more common elements, especially those that have a significant role in our lives.

Looking forward to 2016! b11kmord@mpspride.org

Language Arts - Ms. Swanbon

In Language Arts, students are currently working on becoming Literary Essayists. Students have been learning how to create big ideas from details about literary characters, analyzing and discovering what the character really wants and the motivation behind it, and crafting claims about characters within a text. In addition, students are experimenting with conveying evidence and have learned how to use specific detail from the text to support their statements and ideas. Students have had the opportunity to draft several literary essays, cite their text evidence and revise their work.

Over the next few weeks, we will be looking at themes in the trouble of the text and what makes a claim more precise and compelling, how to fine tune our introductions/first impressions and closing remarks and strengthening the ability to use quotes within the text.

Students are developing into wonderful writers. It is exciting to see their progress! b57lswan@mpspride.org

Special Note: Please be sure your student returns to school with the appropriate class supplies, especially pencils. Many students are asking for pencils almost daily and teachers are unable to provide for such a demand.

Team Cheney

Cheney Chronicles

Where all the S.T.A.R.S. shine

Winter 2016

Team News

From the desk of Jan Broidis

Language Arts

It is hard to believe that half of the school year is over. Team Cheney students are progressing really well in their writing and reading skills.

The third marking period has us continuing to read Stargirl and analyze plot structure and theme.

We will continue to write a character analysis with the focus on theme and elaboration.

Please continue to have your child read independently a book that they have chosen.

Thank you for all your support this year.

From the desk of Jess Albert

Math Happenings:

It is very difficult to believe that the year is half over. The students will be working with fractions and positive and negative numbers in the upcoming units.

I am trying something new. I have begun a web page to keep parents informed of the dates when I will hold extra help after school. This site will also list the daily homework assignments that will stay posted until the end of each week. To access the site, go to the Bennet Academy web site. On the far right there is a link for Faculty and Staff. This leads you to the staff directory. You will see my name and email and you will now see a link to the web site. I am hoping that parents and guardians find this helpful and I look forward to receiving feedback about the site from you.

It is really important that students know their basic multiplication and division facts. There are many web sites that can help kids practice them: mathplayground.com or coolmathgames.com.

For fun math puzzles please go to the following site: <http://www.mathsisfun.com/puzzles/>

From the desk of Shelley Carlson

Social Studies

Team Cheney would like to thank all of the families who donated items to help make the holidays special for our troops. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Students are working through the DBQ process as we study the content of Middle America. At the end of the unit we will be taking our 2nd full DBQ. This is an assessment that students will be taking each year and increases in difficulty. Our next unit will be focused on South America. If anyone has visited a South American country or has something they would like to share with students, please contact me. Students always enjoy first hand experiences. Happy New Year and thank you for your continued support..

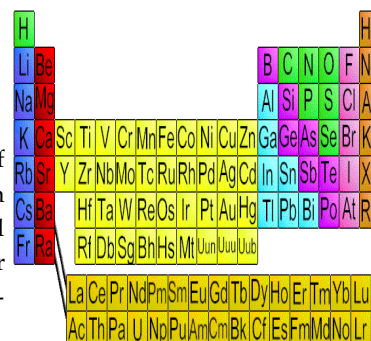
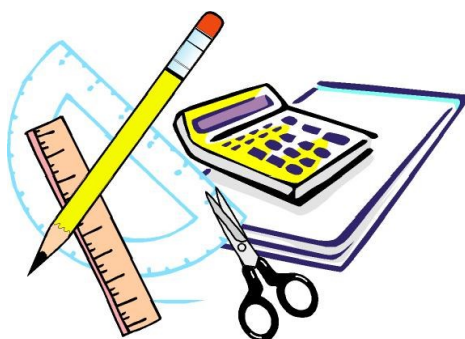


Team Cheney

From the desk of Paul Duva

Science

Our science classes are in the middle of completing research projects based on an element of your child's choice. Your student will have to construct a Google slides presentation and then present their findings. Some interesting information is being gathered and we are excited about our presentations. Our Atlantic salmon have arrived and we are busy calculating their growth on a daily basis. Ask your child how this calculation is carried out and how they determine how much a salmon will grow in a 24 hour period.

From the desk of Kathleen Boccia

Special Education -

During our intervention period, we continue to work on strengthening our areas of weaknesses using small group instruction and the I-Ready program. Students continue to work hard and grow every day. I am available for extra help on Mondays and Wednesdays after school. I strongly encourage students to take advantage of this opportunity.

Team Cheney News:

We are planning a field trip in early April to the Connecticut Science Center. More information will follow.

Please keep checking student planners to help kids stay organized and current with assignments.

Please make sure students are reading 30 minutes every night and completing their reading log.

Please make sure that students have a notebook and a folder for each of their classes. A supply of pencils would also be appreciated.



Team Angelou

Happy New Year and Greetings from Team Angelou!

It's hard to believe we are halfway through the school year! Team Angelou has been celebrating many students who have been showing improvement in their academics, behavior and maturity! We are making progress!

It was wonderful to meet and chat with so many of our parents during conferences in December. Thank you for your support as we all work together towards your students' success!

We are very proud of our Team for collecting over 300 items for Share the Glove. Many items were distributed through our Seasonal Sharing to families in our district. The rest were donated to an area homeless shelter. Great job!!

Team Angelou will be visiting the Connecticut Science Center in February. More information to come within the next couple of weeks.

Intervention: All of our students have been working in the iReady program for Reading or Math during our intervention period. We are beginning to see improvement in these areas and students are enjoying the program.

Language Arts: Mrs. Gibson

Students have been diligently working on writing Literary Essays. This process has taken a lot of our time in Writer's Workshop. We have learned how to write a claim, support the claim with evidence from the text, and develop the essay. In Reading Workshop students have been analyzing characters in text, going hand in hand with our writing.

The Workshop model is designed to give students a lot of practice and the emphasis is on "process" more than just "product". Students are progressing nicely.

Students should continue to read 20 to 30 minutes per night and document it in their reading logs, which can be accessed through Google Classroom.

Math - Mrs. Silagi:

As many of our mathematicians continue working on lessons in Fastt Math and Fraction Nation, they have now incorporated the i-ready math/language arts program into their daily school lives as well. Fastt Math and Fraction Nation can be accessed online at home ~ happy math practice!

As we continue to become more fluent in all operations (adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing), we continue to engage in high quality math "debates" by focusing on the Common Core Math Practice of justifying math arguments. Our students continue to use vocabulary and reasoning to have a polite conversations as to whether they agree or disagree with one another about their answers to difficult math problems. Furthermore, we continue to solve multi-step math problems by use of written explanations, math talks, and class conversations in an effort to demonstrate how they figured out the answers.

As a gentle reminder: please continue to help your child practice their math facts at home. Once your child is fluent with mathematical facts (as most of you are probably noticing this time of year), the problems will become much easier!

Science: Ms. St. Laurent

Physical Science: Elements, Compounds and Mixtures. Students have been exposed to the periodic table and learned how to read the information on the element square. They are able to explain the characteristics of elements and give examples of these characteristics as well as classify elements as metals, nonmetals, and metalloids using the elements characteristics and properties. We have discussed how elements make up compounds and how the chemical process combines two or more elements. Students will explain the properties of mixtures and how mixtures can be separated. Finally, Students were assigned an element project that requires them to complete a research guide, and then use the guide to construct a poster board about their assigned element. Students have been sharing what they have learned about their assigned element by presenting their findings with their classmates. After completing our section on Mixtures, we will be moving on to our next unit of study: Weather and Climate.

The salmon eggs have been delivered and they are doing great. We will have the salmon eggs for about 100 days; until the eggs hatch. At this stage the salmon will be at the Alevin stage of their life cycle. We are scheduled to release the Alevins in Mid-May

Team Angelou continued

and will be taking a field trip to Salmon River Park in Colchester to explore the salmon's natural habitat and to release them into the river.

Social Studies: Mr. Ortiz

Greetings and Happy New Year from Mexico and Middle America! We will be ending Unit 2: Mexico and Middle America in two weeks, we will then continue onto South America. Our kids have been working diligently to understand how the Five Themes of Geography guides their travels throughout these regions. We have been looking at theme maps to talk about climate, natural resources, and physical features to make connections between our region and the regions that we are exploring. We learned that the health of a country's economy influences the quality of life of its people. Your child understands that when a nation's economy is healthy more schools are built, more children are educated, there is more access to healthcare, better paying jobs, and access to better housing. As we continue to explore Latin America your child will be able to understand how a region's physical features influence culture, economy, and the movement of people. Finally, your child will use primary and secondary sources to develop a claim(s). To demonstrate their learning and to support their claim, students will write an essay using evidence from the primary and secondary sources used. As many of you already know, we are using Google Classroom and Google Slides to assemble students' social studies virtual notebook. To guide students as they assemble their virtual notebooks students are provided with a document called Mexico and Middle America Guidelines that is updated periodically by me as we navigate through unit 2. Students also receive feedback and their notebook grade electronically too. Ask your child to log into Google Classroom to share with you the creativity that they have used to show, explain, and connect with Latin America.

Note: Report cards will come out the last week in January. Please go over them with your child. Celebrate the progress, and discuss where improvements can be made. Feel free to call us if you have any questions.

Team Angelou:

Teachers: Mrs. Gibson, Mr. Ortiz, Mrs. Silagi and Ms. St. Laurent



Team Escalante

Science

During the month of December, the students wrapped up the element unit. The element projects were fantastic! I know the students enjoyed working on and presenting their element. They consider themselves experts. We are presently working on compounds. The classes should be able to identify different everyday compounds that we come in contact with. The students will build candy compounds using gum drops in class. During the third week of January, we will begin working on mixtures. At the end of the unit, the students should be able to explain the differences between a solution and mixture.

We have also been busy collecting data on our salmon. I have pulled the salmon eggs out of the tank several times for the students to observe. They're so excited to see the changes inside the egg. The students will estimate when they think the salmon will hatch using the data they have collected over the past two months.

The students are continuing to work on writing literary essays about characters using text evidence to support their claims. This week we will extend their learning by writing claims about the theme of a text. On Monday, students were given a template to write a book review on any book of their choice! The reviews are due on Friday and will be shared with the class.

Math

Grade 6 math classes have been working on finding the Greatest Common Factor this month. We will concentrate on the Least Common Multiple for the remainder of January.

The Accelerated Math students are solving single step and multi-step equations. In addition, they are working on writing and solving multi-step equations from word problems. For the rest of January they will be writing, graphing and solving inequalities.

Social Studies

We are reviewing Latin America, Middle America and Central America in social studies classes. Many new vocabulary words along with map studies and cultural histories have become a point of interest. We have sent questions we had about Jamaica to six teachers in Jamaica and we are waiting for their classes to answer them. We want to see how our lives are like theirs as well as being different.

Language Arts

The students are continuing to work on writing literary essays about characters using text evidence to support their claims. This week we will extend their learning by writing claims about the theme of a text. Students were given a template to write a book review on any book of their choice! The reviews are due on Friday and will be shared with the class.



FRENCH TOAST WITH MR. CHELLA



January Student of the Month/Student Spotlight Breakfast

From left to Right: Allyson Till, Meagan Miazga, Cam-Nhung Thi Quach, Mr. Chella, Mr. Robinson, Kamili Riera, Emely Chavez, Camren Daley. Chayse Mercer is missing from photo.

Elisabeth M. Bennet Academy
1151 Main Street
Manchester, CT 06040

Joseph J. Chella, Principal

Hassan Robinson,
Assistant Principal

Phone: 860-647-3571

Fax: 860-647-3577

We're on the web:

<http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov>

Manchester Public Schools is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. Manchester Public Schools does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. Manchester Public Schools does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and licensing against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction. Inquiries regarding Manchester Public School's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to:

Terri Smith, Human Resources Specialist
Manchester Public Schools
45 North School Street
Manchester, CT 06042
860-647-3595



Title IX Notice

Title IX is a federal law which states: "No person in the United States shall on the basis of sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal assistance.

Manchester's Title IX coordinator is:

Terri Smith
Manchester Public Schools
45 North School Street
Manchester, CT 06042
Phone: 860-647-3595
Fax: 860-647-3327



The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for monitoring the overall implementation of Title IX for the school district and coordinating the institution's compliance with Title IX in all areas covered by implementing regulations. The major responsibility is the prevention of sexual harassment and discrimination.